

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An information recording apparatus controls a recording power to be always optimum without using a high-rate sampling circuit even when a recording condition is changed. A laser diode is driven to emit a light at a first optical amount level value and a second optical amount level value greater than the first optical amount level value. The light emitted by the laser diode is irradiated onto an optical disc. A signal level value of the reflected light is detected by a sample hold circuit or a low-pass filter, and one of the outputs of the low-pass filter and the signal hold circuit is selected in accordance with an instruction for selection. The sample hold circuit detects the signal level value of a sampled reflected light. The low-pass filter outputs an average value of the signal level value. A drive current for driving the laser diode is adjusted based on a result of comparison between the signal level values before recording information and after starting information recording.